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I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. As a Pennsylvania Department of Education project manager from 2006-2011, I saw enormous changes in classrooms throughout the state of Pennsylvania because of the E-Rate program. With E-rate, teachers and students had access to electronic resources and communication tools that truly level the playing field for all districts throughout the state. Most of Pennsylvania schools are located in rural areas that do not have the cultural resources, museums and libraries that are available in suburban and urban districts. With access to the internet in all schools, teachers and students have been able to participate in activities that would not have been possible. In one case, students in a small rural district came in first in the country in a contest that demonstrated understanding and an ability to communicate that understanding well. It would have been impossible for these students to be in the game without the E-Rate program.

The E-Rate program has been a huge success since its inception providing internet access to schools throughout the US which has changed teaching practices to ready students for college and careers.

In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and librarians requested a total of more than \$5 billion - twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.